Subject: method's of installing + displaying a coin collection

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(Institution des Sourds-Muets

Montreal Canada

1927

Institution des Sourds-Muets
3600, boulevard St-Laurent

Montréal, March 31st 1927

To the Secretary
The American Numismatic Society, 157th Street
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am going to install our Coin Collection - Will you please tell me the best methods -

a) to store a reference Coin Collection -

b) to exhibit a coin collection -

Is the old red velvet again the best color to lay coins on?
Swinging frames with double glass have been suggested for exhibition - but other objects seen through the transparent glass may interfere and I have tried to avoid this in our museum -

Would you buy old canadian and foreign coins?

Yours truly
Florian V. Côté C.S.V.
Curator of the Museum -

April 5, 1927

Rev. Florian V. Crete,
Institution des Sourds-Muets,
3600, boulevard St-Laurent,
Montreal, Canada

Dear Sir:

In reply to your various questions concerning the installation of a coin collection, for storage there are two methods, one laying out the coins in shallow trays in cabinets; two, keeping coins in small square envelopes, all of the data, etc. on these envelopes. We use the first method, as the coins are easily seen and the whole series can be seen at once. We keep each coin in a small open box. Any information we want is kept on tickets in this box or on a white label on the back. As we have over a hundred thousand coins, we find this method far better than the other, because in the second way, you can see but one coin at a time.

Now, for exhibiting coins, we show off all our coins in flat cases on black felt backgrounds. You will find all coins show off well on this color and if you make a careful selection it does not fade. Although coins show off well on red, it is apt to fade and the background is so prominent it detracts from the coin. We do use wall cases but in these we show only large medals. These are fastened directly to the backboards. Swinging frames where both sides can be seen are rather expensive and to our mind do not warrant the expenditure, as small coins are very hard to keep in place. Generally when this method is employed, a large cardboard is inserted and holes of various sizes are cut in to accommodate the coins. But it is almost impossible to keep thin coins in place. Again, fully one-half of the coins have their reverses upside down in reference to the obverse, so that the advantage of showing both sides is quite largely nullified. If you use flat cases, have the glass within two or three inches of the bottom of the case. Our cases are built on a slight angle rather than absolutely flat.

We do not feel that we can advise you as to what coins you should buy. We, however, would say a representative series of all coins would be the most instructive. If I were you, I would certainly consult with Mr. L.A. Renaud, 53 Irene St., Montreal, who is curator of the coin collection of the Chateau de Ramesay.

Very truly yours,

Curator